



President Kennedy, Allen Dulles and John A. McCone (right) leave the press conference near Newport, R. I., today where the President announced Mr. Dulles' retirement as director of the Central Intelligence Agency and the appointment of Mr. McCone as his successor.—AP Wirephoto.

Kennedy Chooses McCone To Succeed Dulles in CIA

By GARNETT D. HOWELL
Star Staff Writer

NEWPORT, R. I., Dec. 27.—President Kennedy announced today that John A. McCone will succeed Allen W. Dulles as director of the Central Intelligence Agency in January.

Both Mr. McCone, a Republican business executive, and Mr.

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former chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Mr. Dulles appeared before the President at a special news conference here today.

Mr. Dulles retired at the age of 68 after 17 years in the CIA since 1953. He was selected by Mr. McCone as his "ideal choice" to succeed him.

The President said Mr. McCone will go to Washington to take over the agency's operations.

Will Lead Board

Mr. McCone also will serve as chairman of the Joint Intelligence Board, Mr. Kennedy said.

The President recalled that when he asked Mr. Dulles to stay on the job as CIA director soon after his election last November, Mr. Dulles agreed to do so for a year.

He said that he and Mr. Dulles had been much concerned this summer that the CIA should continue to serve as an effective instrument in the country's policy and that the transition to a new director should be as smooth as possible.

The President added that both he and Mr. Dulles were "extremely pleased and satisfied" that Mr. McCone had agreed to return to Government service. He said Mr. McCone would come to Washington at once.

leaving again his business interests in California.

Mr. Kennedy made no mention of the criticism of Mr. Dulles that developed in some quarters about the CIA participation in the abortive invasion of Cuba by anti-Castro Cubans last spring.

Praised Dulles

Instead, he stressed a "whole feeling" of appreciation "for Mr. Dulles" as a man in intelligence work. The President recalled that Mr. Dulles had served his country under eight Presidents, starting with Woodrow Wilson in World War I.

He said he thought this was a unique record in American history.

Mr. Kennedy added that he knows of no man who is "more courageous and selfless a public servant" than Mr. Dulles.

He expressed "profound regret" at Mr. Dulles' retirement.

said Mr. Dulles' "long